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Information and communications technologies for development

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information on the launching of the first communications satellite of Turkmenistan into the Earth's orbit and priorities of the national space programme (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16 and 49.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information on the launching of the first communications satellite of Turkmenistan into Earth's orbit and priorities of the national space programme

On 28 April 2015 the first communications satellite of Turkmenistan, TurkmenÄlem52E, was launched. This date has special significance in the history of independent Turkmenistan. The launch of the first Turkmen satellite was carried out by the SpaceX corporation on the Falcon 9 v1.1 rocket from the space centre at Cape Canaveral in Florida, United States of America.

The satellite is based on the current generation of the Spacebus 4000 platform, which is well known for its reliability and high quality. Based on the goals and purpose of the satellite, its payload included the latest equipment for multiservice communications, including digital television, telephony, videoconferencing, data transmission, satellite Internet, and very-small-aperture terminal (VSAT) networks. The service life of the satellite is 15 years.

The satellite will cover dozens of countries in Europe and Asia, from Ireland and the United Kingdom to Afghanistan, as well as countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The position of the TurkmenÄlem52E satellite will enable Turkmenistan to act as a transit country in broadcasting channels from Europe and Asia.

Thanks to its capabilities, the satellite can be used to broadcast television and radio channels, transmit data between ground stations located thousands of kilometres from one another, and provide broadband Internet services, distance learning and tele-medicine, including through videoconferencing, and other types of communication services. The satellite is a powerful relay station located at high altitude and can be used in a variety of situations that require urgent long-range transmission of large volumes of data.

In 2007, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov announced from the rostrum of the United Nations that Turkmenistan was open to the world and was ready to engage in far-reaching and cooperation with the world community in a broad range of areas. His priorities included innovation and technological development, a major component of which would be the utilization of capabilities in space-based communications. The National Space Agency under the authority of the President of Turkmenistan, established in 2011 by the Head of State, initiated substantive cooperation with leading international partners. In less than four years, it launched the first national communications satellite.

With the launch of its national satellite into orbit, Turkmenistan has made a major technological breakthrough that is a testament to its dynamic economic growth and is clearly aligned with its long-term development plans and goals, as it now has the capacity to mobilize institutional, intellectual and financial resources to achieve those goals.

A key factor will be having in place and implementing a comprehensive long-term programme for the social and economic development of Turkmenistan, with a focus on innovation, the use of high technology in production, widespread computerization, and the promotion and application of international best practices in various spheres of life. By making the level and quality of education a priority, promoting the involvement and inclusion of all people, particularly young people, in major trends in modern science and technology as well as the natural and social sciences, and encouraging broad international contacts in these areas, the State is making the most promising investment of all: an investment in people and the discovery of their creative abilities. This is an investment in the future of the country that will guarantee the renewal of the nation's most valuable strategic resource — its intelligence.

The launch of the Turkmen communications satellite has clearly demonstrated that the strategic course whose aim is to have Turkmenistan enter the ranks of the developed countries is reasonable and substantiated. The diversification of the economy and industry, with a focus on high technology and promising areas of development — which obviously include space-based communications — is a reality in Turkmenistan today and provides a clear path for the future, as it will to a large extent ensure progress and prosperity in Turkmenistan, raise people's standard of living and quality of life and ensure environmental protection and the introduction of modern production management methods.

The targeted "open door" policy was the most important precondition for the successful implementation of the national space project. Thanks to its neutral and peace-oriented foreign policy as well as cooperation with many countries without any political or ideological conditions attached, Turkmenistan has had excellent opportunities to partner with world-class companies, particularly those specializing in space-related research and development. Turkmenistan has become an attractive place for long-term foreign investment in various sectors, including high technology.

The launch of a national satellite is part of the implementation of the foreign policy strategy of Turkmenistan aimed at combining multilateral efforts to address the global issues of our time and initiatives announced at the United Nations by the President of Turkmenistan in such areas as sustainable energy, transport and communications, the environment and disarmament. A joint international effort in space today will enable the most efficient monitoring of the world's energy supply and transport and communications, and will make it possible to prevent and mitigate the risks of natural and technological disasters and the threat of illicit proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to monitor levels of environmental protection over large territories.

It was symbolic that the satellite launch was carried out in the year that has been declared the Year of Neutrality and Peace in Turkmenistan. The country is going into space with pure intentions and the highest of motivations. Turkmenistan extends a hand of friendship and cooperation to all those who share its belief that outer space is a place of peace, understanding and harmony of interests for the sake of humanity's future.